

REMARKS

Claims Amendments

Claims 16-19 are pending herein. Claims 16-19 have been amended to recite the length and source of the target for the oligonucleotide. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at page 9, lines 1-2 and 21-32, and page 10, lines 1-3. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of Claims 16-19 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a): Robert

Claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Robert et al. Claims 16-19 have been amended to specify that the oligonucleotide is complementary to a gene or RNA transcript is from endogenous mammalian chromosomal DNA, a eukaryotic or prokaryotic pathogen, or a virus selected from a list that does not include human papilloma virus. Robert deals exclusively with human papilloma virus. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment has overcome this rejection and request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 16-19 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a): Cumin

Claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Cumin et al. in view of Matulic-Adamic et al., and Zhang et al. Cumin teaches a 16-mer oligonucleotide with a 5' terminal CpG dinucleotide. Claims 16-19 have been amended to specify that the oligonucleotide has from 17 to 35 nucleotides. Thus the combination of Cumin with any of the other cited references does not result in Applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes that any discussion of this communication would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 207-791-3078.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 24, 2010

Preti Flaherty
One City Center
Portland, ME 04101
Telephone: 207/791-3000
Facsimile: 207/791-3111

By: /Wayne A. Keown/

Wayne A. Keown, Ph.D.
Registration No. 33923